

A Transparent Process

There's a new spirit sweeping our community, a new dream, a new catch phrase. Because the Newsletter Committee immediately adopts all fads and new-fangled ideas, we have decided to "make transparent" the process of editing the newsletter. If you believe that some things are better left mysterious, stop reading now. If you like knowing exactly what chemicals are in that Coke you're drinking, please continue. We are not responsible, however, for any burst bubbles, broken dreams or lost hopes.

Here's how each issue really takes shape:

- 1) During the month prior to the editing, the Newsletter Committee spies eavesdrop on all committee meetings and private conversations, rifle through all paper and email correspondence that comes to the synagogue and certain individuals' personal computers, and take notes at all public and personal events. Then they fill up on Mogen David, type up their notes and create "articles."
- 2) Meanwhile, other Newsletter Committee "servants" pay personal visits to certain key members of our community and come to an understanding with them about what will happen if their columns are turned in late again this issue. [Unfortunately, we must admit that our little "understandings" don't always have the desired effect and the columns are still late, so that we have to resort to more direct "punishments" to get our point across. (David, do you ever wonder why all your pens always leak?)]
- 3) Finally, all articles, columns and assorted "facts" are gathered together in the center of the table as we prepare ourselves for the long, arduous night ahead of us. First, we gorge ourselves on sweets specially prepared by Tory until we have achieved the perfect sugar high. Next, new songs written by Joe Hample are pulled from the pile, and performed in three-part harmony by the committee, accompanied by Rose on her accordion and Brian on his trombone. The personal lives of anyone listed in the "naches," "contributions" or "synagogue information" columns are discussed in graphic detail and the "good parts" immediately written up for *The JGF Enquirer* (soon to be available at the checkout counter in the synagogue gift shop). When we are pretty far gone on sugar, we

"edit" — a process consisting of changing words, sentences, paragraphs, and even whole articles so that the true intention of the author is clouded and distorted. Any disagreements among committee members are settled through arm wrestling, temper tantrums or, in the worse case, one member threatening to "hold my breath until I turn blue."

- 4) Once we are content with our work, the articles are given to a team of research sociologists and psychologists who determine where each article should be placed in the newsletter so as to ensure peace and tranquility in our community. At the same time, copies are sent to a



small group of Kabbalistic scholars in a little town outside of Jerusalem, who determine that no combination of letters, words or thoughts are likely to have an unanticipated mystical, spiritual or economic impact.

- 5) Finally, newsletters are printed with kosher ink (no pig parts are used in the creation of this ink) on paper made without the use of leavening. They are sent to the post office and then carefully delivered to your neighbor's mailbox a week late.

We hope this clears up any confusion surrounding the newsletter. If you have any questions, please ask someone who has a clue.

Why Kuf Kuf Sha'ar Zahav?

Those of you who are familiar with Hebrew or who are aware of how Sha'ar Zahav's name is written in Hebrew, may be wondering why the beautiful sign on our building reads "kuf kuf Sha'ar Zahav."

The kuf kuf (the Hebrew letters that look a little like "p p") stand for the Hebrew words "kin-rais ka-tan," literally "small artichoke." During the construction of the mishkan, the workers found a thriving colony of miniature artichokes growing where our elevator now rests. Although they were unable to save the plants (they did have several nice lunches), we felt that the inclusion of the kuf kuf in our name honored the plants appropriately.



Jerusalem Artichoke Soup recipe

- 2 lb Jerusalem artichokes
- 6 c chicken broth
- 1 c thinly sliced green onions
- salt/pepper to taste
- 2 tb minced fresh dill

Scrub Jerusalem artichokes and cook in simmering water 30-40 minutes, until tender. Drain and discard cooking liquid. Peel and mash artichokes and place in a large saucepan. Stir in chicken broth and green onions.

Simmer for about 15 minutes; season to taste with salt/pepper and serve sprinkled with dill.



Siddur Committee Reconsiders After Raucous Meeting

In a lively meeting held at CSZ on February 30, the Siddur committee decided to expand the new Siddur to include many obscure prayers, songs and sayings that some people thought might add heft, not to mention weight. As a first step, the entire Tanach (Hebrew Bible) will be added as an addendum, in simultaneous translation from the Hebrew into Aramaic, Arabic, English, gender-sensitive English (with thanks to Batya Kalis), Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Tagalog. Alternate readings to ensure gender inclusivity will be footnoted, where appropriate. The addition of 5,760 pages of text will be funded by a \$400 levy on all members.

Additionally, the collected speeches of Winston Churchill, Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and Suraya Arafat will be added to the readings section, which heretofore unaccountably expressed a largely "Jewish" viewpoint. This will ensure the widest possible coverage of political and moral views. A narrow vote of those present omitted the works of the Roman Catholic theologian Cardinal Newman, but his texts are prominently referenced in the section on alternative blessings for candle lighting.

Because of the increase in size brought about by the additions, it was thought practical to bring out the new Siddur in sections. In homage to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, there will be 26 volumes for the Friday night service and an additional 13 volumes for the Saturday morning service. It is expected that the first volume, "Aaron" through "Amidah," will appear shortly. We expect to reach "Zoroastrianism" to "Zygote" well before the year 6000.

Reading glasses and magnifying glasses will be provided free of charge to those congregants who find the six point type difficult to read. In addition, a CD version will be available to ensure that those who prefer to bring a laptop to services can be properly served.

We would like to thank the Committee for its flexibility and forward thinking.

New Times for Shabbat Services

The Ritual Committee has long been aware that 8:15 pm on Friday nights and 10 am on Saturday mornings are not necessarily the best times for Shabbat services, especially with people who work as hard, play as hard and like to sleep in as much as our congregants say they do.

It hasn't been easy to solve this problem, what with Friday night and Saturday morning being traditional times to celebrate Shabbat. After intense processing however, one member (who has requested anonymity) had an insight:

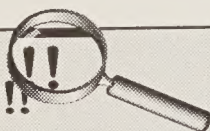
"Hey," this anonymous person said, "we're a Reform synagogue. We were born to challenge tradition!"

So, from now on, the so-called "Friday Night Services" will take place on Thursday nights at 7 pm. This way, everyone can have a light dinner after work, come to services and be home in time to watch "E.R."

"Saturday Morning Services" were a tougher nut to crack. Every morning gave us the same problem: we'd have to start too early for most people. But since the Torah doesn't change year-to-year, the prayers don't change (well, yes they do, once in a while, but we promise to stop), and people prefer to stick to the same melodies for the songs, we realized we could create videotapes of morning services for each Shabbat of the year. All members will receive copies (VCR or DVD - your choice) for a one-time payment of 10% of your monthly expenses, as determined by us. In each issue of the JGF, we will remind you which videos to watch that month. The videos will be available as soon as we can figure out how to hook up our VCRs for dubbing.

Any questions or comments about these new policies should be directed to anyone other than a member of the Ritual Committee.

Rabbi Search: Exciting Times!!!



Thanks to all of you who have joined us in welcoming our first of two Rabbinical candidates during March. After months of preparation, things have begun to happen quickly. Because of the rapidity with which we must move through the interview process, please watch your email (or regular mail for those of you without email) for information on events as they unfold. Also, please continue to provide us with your thoughts and comments. Stay tuned for more exciting events.

Adult Education

Passover Classes

Passover is coming!

Do these words inspire images of frenzied cleaning? Of interminable time at the seder table? Of matzah brei? Of joy and bliss and renewal?

Please join us and learn about the ritual and spirituality of Passover with Rabbi Richman. On Wednesdays **April 5 and 12**, from **7:30-9 pm**, we'll look at the basics of what Passover cleaning really involves, and we'll search for spiritual meaning in hametz. We'll also explore the traditional elements of the seder plate and look at new ritual objects that are finding their way onto the seder table.

Mechanics of Prayer II

Rabbi Richman will present another three-class series as a sequel to the wildly popular series she taught in January. These classes are scheduled for three Wednesdays, **May 3, 10 and 17**, from **7-9 pm**. They will include chevrutah (partnered) study of the prayer texts and will cover the Amidah, festival worship and the closing parts of services which were not covered in the first series. Rabbi Richman's unique teaching style pulls together history, insights from the great rabbis and contemporary religious practice into an enjoyable and informative presentation with plenty of class participation. This promises to be an exciting series.

Coming Soon...

It is a mitzvah on Passover to let a stranger into your home. Here at Sha'ar Zahav, we ask that you invite a fellow congregant into your home as well. If you have room at your table this year on the first night of Passover, April 19, and would like to extend an invitation to a CSZ member who is looking for a seder to join, or if you are a CSZ member and are looking for a welcoming place to spend the first night of Passover, please call Dahlia Gross at 575-4961.

Passover News

Congregational Seder

CSZ holds a community seder each year on the second night of Pesach. The cost this year is \$30 for adult members, \$15 for children and \$40 for non-CSZ members. If you haven't yet reserved a space, call the CSZ office as soon as possible to see if space is still available.

Community Women's Seder

Join the San Francisco Women's Alliance of the Jewish Community Federation at "The Journey Continues - A Community Women's Seder" on April 13 at 6 pm. The seder will be led by Rabbi Sydney Mintz of Congregation Emanu-El, Vicky Kelman of the Bureau of Jewish Education and songleader Marsha Attie. Invitations are available from the CSZ office or by calling 512-6222. The seder costs \$36 and will take place at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California Street. All women, ages 10 and up, are welcome. Please reserve your space by April 7.

Why Did Pharoah Harden His Heart?

by Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

Every Pesach, we celebrate our ancestors' miraculous escape from tyranny into the turbulence of freedom. Because the story is ours, our enemy's motives are unimportant. Yet investigating them can lead to surprising revelations about the meaning of the entire Exodus from Egypt.

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President Down Under



David Gellman

I have just gotten off a plane from Sydney, Australia, where I have been for a week, visiting friends, enjoying the summer weather and representing Sha'ar Zahav in the 2000 Sydney Gay &

Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. Due to some shifting of time which I cannot fully comprehend, I arrived in San Francisco six hours before I departed Australia, which I guess makes up for the Shabbat I lost on the way down.

Some background: Australia is a country where 80% of the Jewish community is affiliated with Orthodox synagogues, the leaders of which are ashamed and unwilling even to acknowledge the existence of homosexual Jews. It is a crucial time in the development of attitudes towards Jewish lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people, who are courageously coming out in growing numbers, seeking rights and recognition. The Australian Reform and Conservative communities have been supportive, but they represent a tiny minority, without the kind of financial or political muscle we take for granted in the United States. For most non-straight Jews in Australia, membership in a synagogue and participation in Jewish family and community life are possible only from behind closet doors. But the situation is changing fast.

The Sydney Mardi Gras is an event which, despite its title, might more accurately be described as Australia's GLBT Pride festival. It is a two-week event culminating in the parade, which has become Sydney's largest single cultural/tourist event, attracting over 750,000 spectators and 7,500 participants in the Saturday night parade along Oxford Street (picture the Castro in the Southern Hemisphere).

A prominent Jewish presence in the parade has been an issue of deep controversy in the Australian Jewish community. Visitors like Rabbi Ariel Fried, an out lesbian with two congregations in Virginia, along with myself, representing the unimaginable - an entire congregation of American GLBT Jews, were bar-



David Gellman and Dawn Cohen celebrate Mardi Gras

aged with interview requests from ABC (Australian Broadcasting Corp.), The Australian Jewish News and an Israeli television crew. The organizers suggested that the mainstream media attention to this historic event increased participation from the anticipated forty marchers to over three times that number.

Last year, there were two Jewish groups in the Parade, a men's group of 15 or so, and a slightly larger women's group, marching separately. This year, thanks to the heroic efforts of Dawn Cohen, Malcolm Davidowitz and other dedicated Aussie lesbian and gay Jews, the parade featured a fabulous float under the theme of "The Stars of David Come Out," followed by 30 dancers repeating a lively and precision dance production of Disco Shalom Alecheim, followed by another 100 marchers (including your prez) bearing giant fuchsia and gold Mogen Davids. And if this were not enough of an organizational challenge, the event was preceded the evening before by a first-time-ever queer Shabbat service and dinner for over 100 people, a dinner after the parade and a Sunday "recovery" picnic. This by a group of dedicated individuals who began without significant financial resources, organizational structure, or even the names of more than a handful of men and women who have dared to come out as lesbian and gay Jews in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Some of those participating in the Shabbat service and the parade were making

their first public statement as to their sexual identities and did so proudly as Jews. Our contingent marched and danced along the parade corridor, and the cheering of three-quarters of a million people grew more and more intense as we moved from the more tourist-dominated crowd at the beginning of the route, to the more local scene along Flinders Street. The memory that will stay with me the longest was of a man in his late sixties, standing alone, cheering us on and pointing to his chest, to tell us that he, too, was a Jew, and most likely one of us.

Like a proud papa, I brought along pictures of our new Mishkan to show off to my hosts, gave out our website info and talked to dozens of people about what it is like to be a partner, rather than a pariah, in the Jewish community. And for the dozens of Jews who marched, and the hundreds or perhaps even thousands who watched, in person or on national television, a new thought may have taken root, that "next year in Jerusalem, next year in our own communities," may come sooner than we think - it may already be here.

G'day, mates.

Save the Date

**Congregational Meeting
May 21st, 2000**

NOTE DATE CHANGE!

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$18/year.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

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- **Design and Layout:** Kerri Schiff
- **Printing:** Genesis Printing & Graphics
- **Distribution:** Mail It Right

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

April 2000 Volume 23, Issue 8.



Photo by Michael Bettinger

Rabbi Richard Address on The Synagogue as a Caring Community

What does it mean for the synagogue to be a caring community? It means that the congregation acts as an extended spiritual family, continually sending a message of involvement through direct service, caring and concern to members who are experiencing illness, bereavement and other difficulties in their lives. The caring community idea begins with the basic assumption that mitzvot are part of who we are as Jews and are incumbent upon all of us.

The CSZ Bikkur Cholim (visiting the sick) Committee has invited Rabbi Richard Address to lead a training workshop on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 pm on the spiritual, practical and ethical dimension of Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving-kindness).

As Director of the UAHC's Department of Jewish Family Concerns, Rabbi Address travels around the country speaking on issues such as Older Adults, Bio-Ethics, Substance Abuse, AIDS, Gay and Lesbian Inclusion and the Synagogue as a Caring Community. He is an inspiring speaker who has led workshops at many congregations over the past several years.

Thank You from Sydney

Dear Sha'ar Zahav,

Thank you for loaning us your president for a week. Dave was absolutely inspirational to have around. His easy manner, and willingness to help out with whatever was asked of him, particularly in relation to the media, has given us the visibility we were after with this parade. Dave's presence assisted us in being one of only two floats out of the two hundred entries made that received prominent coverage in our main newspaper, *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Our parade entry succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. We had participants from all over the world, including Mike Kook, the treasurer of the World Congress [of Gay, Lesbian and

Bisexual Jewish Organizations]. We have solidified from being a group of enthusiastic individuals into the beginnings of a community. We had a dominant position in one of the world's largest community education events, and we received universally sympathetic and supportive press from every quarter.

But, most pleasing of all, participants from all over the world reported having a fabulous and moving time.

We look forward to more of you joining us next year!

Dawn Cohen
Co-convenor
Dayenu Association
cohen@ozemail.com.au.

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Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

Community Yom HaShoah Observance (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

On June 17, 1943, more than 11,000 people attended a historic meeting at the San Francisco Civic Center. At that meeting, they unanimously approved a petition to the U.S. government to "use its good offices in aiding millions of Jews and other minorities in Axis-dominated Europe." Featured at the rally were Thomas Mann, Eddie Cantor, Senator Jack Shelley and Isaac Stern.

A commemoration of that rally will be part of this year's Community Yom HaShoah observance on May 1 at 7:30 pm at Congregation Emanu-El. "The Holocaust and Its Aftermath: San Francisco Responses-1943 to the Present," is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Holocaust Center of Northern California.

The memorial will include prayers and music. This year's speakers will be Reverend Cecil Williams, Dr. William (Zev) Brenner and Senator Kevin Shelley, who will read the text of the resolution introduced by his father at the 1943 meeting.

Music in the Mishkan

You are invited to join us for the third and final section of a three-part Chamber Music Series at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav called "Music in the Mishkan." The April 23 program begins at 4 pm and includes pieces by Haydn, Bach, Telemann and Kodaly. A wine and cheese reception will follow. To purchase tickets, call the CSZ programming office at 575-4961 or purchase them at the door. The costs are \$8-15 for adults and \$2-5 for seniors.

Sukkot In April

If you are 14 or over, we want you. Whether you participated in past years or not, you're needed. Set aside April 30 and get your paint brushes ready. Sukkot in April is just around the corner.

During Sukkot in April, Jewish organizations and congregations around the Bay Area get together to paint, garden, clean and renovate homes belonging to senior citizens and the disabled. We also renovate buildings owned by non-profit organizations. For the past three years CSZ has been a leader in the program. We have provided 50 volunteers each year and we have successfully renovated three large community buildings. We painted, we laid carpeting, we gardened, we ate and we had fun.

Please join us for the fourth annual Sukkot in April project. This year we will renovate an individual's home. We will need 30 volunteers; you don't need to be skilled and you don't need your own tools. Just fill out the Sukkot in April form which you should have received in the mail, or pick one up at the synagogue, and return it to Dahlia in the CSZ office, ASAP.

If you have any questions, call Laura Lowe (247-2409). We look forward to working with you.



Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat is a group for children aged two to five, their friends and families. We have developed our own brief service to start out each event, followed by crafts, snacks and lots of fun. We are growing each month and would love to share the fun with even more tots. We meet the fourth Friday of every month at 10:30 am in the Oneg Room at CSZ. Upcoming dates are: April 29 (fifth Saturday because of Passover), May 27 and June 24.

For more information, please call Deena Lahn, committee chair, at 584-8903 or Dahlia Gross at 575-4961.

Kadimah Activities

Shabbat ha-Hinukh, Saturday, April 1. Please join us in celebrating and honoring Sha'ar Zahav's teaching staff at Shabbat Shacharit services, Saturday, April 1 at 10 am. Teachers will be called to the Torah, special blessings made and a special oneg in honor of our wonderful teachers will be held afterwards.

Family Pesach Celebration, Saturday, April 15. We will be having our annual family Pesach celebration including haroset tastings, special classes and other fun activities. Anyone interested in making special haroset should contact David (educator@shaarzahav.org or 575-4962) for recipes.

Havdalah Under the Stars, Saturday, April 8, 6:30 pm. Meet at the synagogue and celebrate the passing of Shabbat at a special Havdalah Under the Stars program. Depending on the weather, we will go to Dolores Park, sing songs, learn about Havdalah and have a short Havdalah ceremony.

Babies, Brunch & More

We had so much fun at the Baby Havdalah, we're doing it again! CSZ babies (under age 3), friends and family are invited to a Bagel Brunch at CSZ, in May, date TBA. Parents will get a chance to shmooze and eat while Jen Markowitz, CSZ Hebrew school teacher and expert storyteller, will entertain the little folks. Come ready for fun. Interested? Call Dahlia at 575-4961.

Here's what's going on in April:

Wednesdays	Saturday
4/5 Regular Kadimah	4/1 Regular Kadimah Special Teacher Celebration
4/12 Regular Kadimah	
4/26 Regular Kadimah	4/8 Regular Kadimah Special Havdalah Program
	4/5 Regular Kadimah
	4/29 Regular Kadimah

Va'ad Minutes

Tiela Chalmers and Nicole Bloom presented the Siddur Committee's recommendation for the publication and funding of the new Erev Shabbat Siddur. The beta draft appeared for the first time in February. The committee is soliciting feedback for the final version. The beta draft was printed from the Prayerbook Fund with an expectation that we will fundraise for the final printing and to replenish the Prayerbook Fund. We discussed how best to raise funds for this project and how to acknowledge the donors of those funds. President David Gellman will form a committee to begin working on fundraising efforts for the siddur.

Concerned members Jo Hirschmann and Elizabeth Wilson presented a resolution against Proposition 21. They linked it with Proposition 22, the Knight Initiative, as an attack against oppressed communities. The Va'ad unanimously approved a resolution stating: "Be it resolved that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav opposes Proposition 21, the so-called 'Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative,' that will appear on the March 7, 2000 California ballot." The Va'ad also authorized that No on Proposition 21 materials be made available at CSZ, that the directions on how to support the No on 21/22 effort be placed in the announcements, and that David Gellman email a letter to congregants regarding the Va'ad's actions. The newly-forming Political Action Committee is directed to formulate guidelines for our support of political agendas.

Arthur Slepian gave the Treasurer's Report. We still expect to finish the fiscal year with a small surplus. The Finance Committee will be meeting to look at the first draft of next year's budget which projects a \$22,000 deficit with no changes except for staffing adjustments and cost of living increases. Arthur reiterated that we must be seriously examining how to raise revenues.

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Why Kuf Kuf Sha'ar Zahav?

Those of you familiar with Hebrew or who are aware of how Sha'ar Zahav's name is written in Hebrew, may be wondering why the beautiful sign on our building reads "kuf kuf Sha'ar Zahav."



Photo by Robert Tat

The kuf kuf (the Hebrew letters that look a little like "p p") stand for the Hebrew words "kehila kedosha," literally "holy community." Many synagogues and other Jewish community buildings in Europe had kuf kuf in their names. Including the kuf kuf links CSZ to Jewish communities throughout the ages.



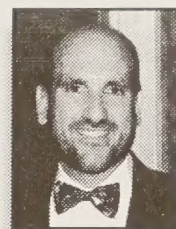
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Jason L. Gaber



Jason Lee Gaber, rabbi, educator, social worker, spiritual guide and CSZ member passed away on February 17, 2000, at age 42, after succumbing to AIDS.

Jason leaves behind his parents, Louis and Anita Gaber, sisters Rochelle and Renee, brother Robert, nephew Seth, niece Lisa and many, many close friends and colleagues who will miss him tremendously.

Jason made San Francisco his home in 1980 and was very involved in the Jewish community here. His greatest contribution was his 14 years of dedicated work for the Jewish Community Center (1981-1994), where he eventually became the assistant executive director.

Jason's academic achievements began with his graduation from the Lubavitch Yeshiva in Brookline, MA in 1974; continued with his BS in Education from Northeastern University in Boston, and his MSW degree from San Francisco State University; and culminated in his rabbinical ordination in 1995 by Rabbi Zalman Shachter of the Jewish Renewal Movement. Even in his last days, Jason was in the process of studying to become a certified chaplain at Mt. Zion hospital in San Francisco.

Jason will be remembered for his zest for life, his deep faith in Judaism, his dedication to making it accessible to all Jewish people around him, and his political gay activism. His strength lay in his ability to bring people and communities together.

Jason was buried at Ohel Jacob cemetery in Woburn, MA on February 20.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Dor Rishon Brotherhood

Are you 40+ and interested in meeting other men? Enjoying monthly Shabbat dinners at different SF restaurants? Having peers to go to film festivals, museums, hot spots with? If you can think of it, you can organize it and probably find a few other CSZ folks to join you. The current facilitator of CSZ's Dor Rishon Brotherhood unfortunately has an ongoing time conflict, so if you are interested in helping to coordinate Dor Rishon Brotherhood please call Bill Goldstein 510/745-1428 or Dahlia Gross at 575-4961. Call us soon so that Friday Night on the town can resume this May.

April/May-Adar II/Nissan

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
				MAY DEADLINE MONDAY, MAY 1			
				ARTICLES			
				Please submit articles via email to brian.jersky@sonoma.edu . If you do not have email, please submit articles on a 3.5 inch disk and mail to CSZ. No late submissions will be accepted without prior approval of the Forward editor.			
2	26 Adar II	3	27 Adar II	4	28 Adar II	5	
• 11 pm-2 pm - Intergenerational Dialogue: Identity and Gender Fluidity		• 2 pm-3 pm - Healing Service		• 7 pm - Bikkur Cholim Workshop: Creating a Caring Community led by Rabbi Richard Address		• 4 pm - Kadimah • 7 pm - JGF Ed • 7:30 pm-9 pm -	
9	4 Nissan	10	5 Nissan	11	6 Nissan	12	
• 1 pm - Klezmer Rehearsal • 6 pm - JGF Proofing		• 6 pm - Children's Education Board • 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting		• 7 pm - Adult Education Committee		• 4 pm - Kadimah • 7:30 pm-9 pm -	
16	11 Nissan	17	12 Nissan	18	13 Nissan	19	
		• 7 pm Membership Committee meeting • 7:30-9:30 pm - Great Books featuring Shachar Pinsker				1st Pesach Seder	
23	18 Nissan	24	19 Nissan	25	20 Nissan	26	
4 pm - Music in the Mishkan						• 4 pm - Kadimah	
30	25 Nissan	1	26 Nissan	2	27 Nissan	3	
8:30 am-4 pm - Sukkot in April		2 pm-3 pm - Healing Service 6:30 pm - Children's Education Board 7:30 pm - Community Yom HaShoah observance at Congregation Emanu-El		Yom HaShoah		• 4 pm - Kadimah • 7 pm - JGF Ed • 7 pm-9 pm -	

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need updates.

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SHABBAT	
MAY DEADLINE MONDAY, MAY 1						1	Shabbat Shemini 25 Adar II
ADVERTISING							
To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.							
29 Adar II	6	1 Nissan	7	2 Nissan	8	Shabbat Tazria 3 Nissan	
Sew Class			<ul style="list-style-type: none">7:20 pm - Candle Lighting7 pm - New Siddur Discussion8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Henry Machtay		<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15 am - Torah Study9:30 am - Kadimah Class10 am - Shabbat Services led by Ruthy Talansky and Howard Steiermann1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah6:30 pm - Havdalah Under the Stars		
7 Nissan	13	8 Nissan	14	9 Nissan	15	Shabbat Metzora/Hagadol 10 Nissan	
Sew Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6 pm - SF Women's Alliance Seder at Sherith Israel, co-sponsored by CSZ		<ul style="list-style-type: none">7:27 pm - Candle Lighting8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Richman and Howard Steiermann		<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15 am - Torah Study9:30 am - Kadimah Family Pesach10 am - Shabbat Services led by Sarita Groisser and Leslie Kane1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah		
14 Nissan	20	15 Nissan	21	16 Nissan	22	Shabbat Chol-ha-Moed 17 Nissan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2nd Pesach Seder6:30 pm - Congregational Seder		<ul style="list-style-type: none">7:33 pm - Candle Lighting8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Robin Leonard and Leslie Kane		<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15 am - Torah Study10 am - Shabbat Services including Yizkor led by Tiela Chambers1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah		
21 Nissan	27	22 Nissan	28	23 Nissan	29	Shabbat Achave Mot 24 Nissan	
Sew Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30 pm - Ritual Committee meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none">7:40 pm - Candle Lighting8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Joe Hample and Lyssa Friedman		<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15 am - Torah Study9:30 am - Kadimah Class10 am - Shabbat Services led by Ruth Schoenbach10:30 am - Tot Shabbat1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah		
28 Nissan	4	29 Nissan	5	30 Nissan	6	Shabbat Kedoshim 1 Iyar	
Sew Class			<ul style="list-style-type: none">7:46 pm - Candle Lighting7 pm - New Siddur Discussion8:15 pm - Shabbat Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:15 am - Torah Study9:30 am - Kadimah Class10 am - Shabbat Services1 pm-2:15 pm - Meditation Chavurah		
Mechanics of Prayer II Rabbi Richman							

Information.

Why Did Pharaoh Harden His Heart?

continued from page 3

Why did Pharaoh keep Israel in subjection, despite ten highly persuasive plagues? Was it hatred? Greed? Desire to control everything around him? The answer is not obvious. His first words, in Parashat Shemot, tangle together many possible reasons or excuses for animosity: "Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than us. Come, let's outsmart them, in case they become many, and a war occurs, and they too join our enemies and fight against us and go up out of the land."

Pharaoh's thoughts tumble and jumble. For instance, he fears that the Israelites will join invaders to fight against the Egyptians and, simultaneously, will take advantage of the upheaval of war to leave them. Equally illogically, he imagines that there are more Israelites than Egyptians yet fears that they will "become many." How many would have been too many? Some modern people complain that gays who mention their partners or Jews who don't come to work on Yom Kippur are "flaunting." Did Pharaoh find the Israelite presence excessive simply because there were enough of them for him—or his subjects – to notice?

His speech has often been analyzed to show the illogic of thinking motivated by hate and fear, to demonstrate the hater's imperviousness to argument. Yet perhaps there is a hidden logic. Later in the same parashah Pharaoh, inadvertently reveals what may be his deepest reason: his fear of giving up power over Israel.

In Parashat Shemot, Moses is born and hidden, then is rescued and raised by Pharaoh's own daughter. He grows up, tries to protect an Israelite and ends up killing an Egyptian. After the killing becomes common knowledge, he flees to Midian, marries the daughter of the Midianite priest Jethro/Reuel, encounters God at the burning bush, and reluctantly returns to Egypt to liberate his people. On his return, Moses confronts Pharaoh with the demand that the Israelites be allowed to go worship in the wilderness. Pharaoh angrily refuses. Then he adds in an aside, "The people of the land are many and you would have them cease from their burdens."

These are his words: "The people of the land." But the people of the land of Egypt are Egyptians, not Israelites! Perhaps Pharaoh cares less about the work he can force from the Israelites than about the example of independence that they might set for his own people. After all, many generations before, the Grand Vizier Joseph had crafted a policy to deprive the Egyptian peasants of their land and freedom, in exchange for stored food during a drought, turning them into Pharaoh's serfs. If Joseph's family were protected, it was only temporarily, until a Pharaoh arose who "didn't know Joseph." Nothing indicates that the condition of the Egyptian serfs had improved by Moses' time, especially as their ruler seems indifferent to their lot.

Pharaoh's lack of concern for ordinary Egyptians shows when their suffering from the plagues leaves him repeatedly untouched except as it affects his personal power. He never identifies as an Egyptian, but as overlord and exploiter of the Egyptians. Like all exploiters, he has reason to fear his numerous victims.

This fear shows most strongly in his order concerning boy babies: "Pharaoh commanded his entire people: Every son that will be born-into the river you shall throw him!" He doesn't order death for every Hebrew son, or every foreign son, but for every son that is born. The best-known midrash on this line is that the court sorcerers had predicted that a boy was about to be born who would bring disaster on Pharaoh's house, thus he ordered all boys killed at birth, Egyptian and foreign alike. Any child could be the tyrant's successful enemy.

Thus even in the most Israelite-centered story, the birth of our nation, the Torah hints at the often-observed connection between all struggles for freedom. Many people now alive have seen how one movement towards liberation sparks, and sometimes actively supports, another. The successful struggle against Nazism gave new impetus and new moral suasion to the old African-American struggle against racism, inspiring the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s, which birthed the Black nationalist, student and women's movements, leading to the lesbian/gay movement. Living in a time of fragmentation, often facing powerful or desperate enemies, we may forget these connections. But the archetypal tyrant never does.

Centuries before Isaiah's prophecy that Israel would become a light unto the nations, Pharaoh's fear led him to the same conclusion. His stubborn opposition to Moses and God was an attempt to stifle the beacon of freedom before its light reached his own people.

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A Wonderful Visit To The Jewish Home For The Aged



Photo by Michael Bettinger

CSZ volunteers spent the morning of February 13 at the Jewish Home for the Aged providing bagels, cream cheese, coffee, juice and much-needed company to a large group of invited residents. We brought pictures, books, flowers and cards to help start conversations with the residents. We helped to alleviate their boredom and their loneliness.

We would like to thank the following participants: Phyllis Mintzer, George Mintzer, Rena Frantz, Shayna Frantz-Prochovnik, Michael Bettinger, Dahlia Gross, Thea Mauro, Jacqueline Mauro, Zack Miller, Sarah

Shor, Leslie Kane, Shmulik Fishman, Melanie Kushner, Alex Davida, Lorraine Nacamulli and Aaron Nacamulli. We would also like to thank Carol Burns, volunteer coordinator for the Jewish Home for the Aged.



Photo by Michael Bettinger

Many of our volunteers were from the Kadimah class kitah hey. It was a difficult assignment for 12 year olds. It is hard to know how to relate to elderly strangers. We want to give a

special acknowledgment to the class for the tremendous effort that it took to come to the Jewish Home and hang in there when it got uncomfortable.

We are currently planning another activity with the Jewish Home. There are many individual volunteer activities available. You can read to residents, you can help with game night, you can visit residents or you can help with other activities. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Carol Burns at 334-2500.



Photo by Michael Bettinger

Good News From Israel

The Israeli Interior Ministry recently granted resident status to two same-sex partners of Israeli Citizens. This is the first step toward obtaining Israeli Citizenship. In addition, a coalition of gay/lesbian Israeli organizations are working with members of the Knesset to pass an amendment to Israel's adoption laws, to allow any couple to adopt. Fifteen Knesset members have signed on.

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Mark Your Calendars

And save your money! As of this printing, it is likely that the Gay and Lesbian Initiative of the Jewish Community Federation will be making a return trip to Israel in April or May of 2001, possibly to coincide with Israel's Gay Pride Parade. This "Journey of Pride" will be open to all members of CSZ and will be a wonderful way to experience Israel, for both first timers and veterans of previous visits. Your May *Forward* will contain details.

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Why Is This New Member Different From All Others?

By Marc Wernick

This month we spotlight new member Shirley Kirsten. In keeping with the theme of the season, Shirley's story is one of tradition and growth. Shirley's spirit is one of activist and artist. The threads of her story come together as we unweave the seemingly diverse fibers of her life.

In terms of tradition, her mother, father and brother are all activists. A newspaper article from the 1930's with a photo of Shirley's mother chained to a pillar in front of a hotel to protest unfair labor practices, left an indelible impression on Shirley. Shirley continued in her mother's footsteps and recently organized the Fresno substitute teachers to improve working conditions for them. "It is part of my consciousness. No one was doing anything to improve their lot."

Shirley is a pianist and writer. "My passion is the piano and its literature," Shirley sighed. She is also a mother and reflected on the importance of maintaining a balance as a parent and as an artist. "It was important to me to be enriched, happy and fulfilled musically while mothering my six children."

With most of the kids out of the house, Shirley began a process of renewal in which Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has played a key role. The CSZ event with former Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger cemented Shirley's determination to relocate to the Bay Area. "I missed the spirited interaction with people of the same background. The gay and lesbian community is not very visible, not very celebrated in Fresno. I loved the Talmudic back and forth, the polite, but sometimes cantankerous, debate. And the people were so friendly at the oneg. I felt more welcome at Sha'ar Zahav than I did at my temple of 20-plus years."

Let's learn a little more about Shirley with our "traditional" format of four questions.

Q. In what ways do you identify as a Jew?

A. Like many of us, Shirley identifies most strongly in a cultural sense. "My grandmother was very schmaltzy," commented Shirley. "She was from Russia and always sang those sweet Yiddish lullabies to me." Shirley's grandfather

was a raconteur, regaling Shirley with Shalom Aleichem stories. When most of her friends were going to Hebrew school, Shirley was being schooled at a Shalom Aleichem settlement school in Yiddish.

Q. Which mitzvah is most compelling and important to you?

A. Shirley derives meaning in her life by giving without expectations. She also mentioned the importance of being in the present, giving of yourself and developing close friendships.

Q. What are your favorite holidays and traditions?

A. Rosh Hashanah holds special meaning for Shirley because it signifies hope. The food, especially apples and honey – their sweetness – brings comfort to Shirley. As a musician, Shirley mentions the melodies, especially those from Passover and Chanukah, as being special to her.

Q. Passover is right around the corner. Any special plans?

A. This year Passover will take on special meaning for her as she contemplates her own "emigration to the Promised Land" – the Bay Area. Shirley's birthday usually falls on Passover. "I might whip up a pesedich cake."

Well, with all of Shirley's other activities, it is a wonder that she even has time to find the matzo meal! Please join me in welcoming Shirley to our synagogue. We hope that Sha'ar Zahav will become one of her traditions and that we can help be the "fertilizer" for her upcoming phase of personal growth in the Bay Area.

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News From Around the World

Progressive Judaism in Israel Marks a Breakthrough

Owing largely to the advocacy work of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) in Jerusalem (founded and supported by ARZA/World Union), the Israeli Education Ministry announced in January that it would provide \$500,000 to progressive Jewish groups. Though this is the first time the State of Israel has officially recognized non-Orthodox streams of Judaism, Reform Movement Rabbi Uri Regev of IRAC said the amounts in question were too small to be considered equitable. (The ultra-Orthodox and national religious sectors will still receive over \$24 million.) Still, he said, the funding was "an important expression of the education minister's commitment to pluralism in Jewish education."

Hungarian Reform Congregation Receives Ark

Thanks to the generosity of the North America Rabbinic Council of ARZA/World Union, the Sim Shalom Reform Community in Budapest will have its own ark. Members of the Rabbinic Council recently visited the congregation to make the gift. "After going to Budapest and Prague, we came away with the message that the progressive Jewish communities are in dire need of support," said Rabbis Laurence Kotok and Robert Orkand, co-chairs of the Rabbinic Council. "If Judaism is going to survive and exist in Eastern Europe, it's going to be a liberal Judaism."

Your support makes it possible for ARZA/World Union to help progressive Judaism flourish in Israel, the former Soviet Union and around the world. For more information or to become a member of ARZA/World Union, please contact CSZ's chapter chairperson, Ron Lezell (rlezell@aol.com).

Contributions

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ron Wilmot.

Neil Hart, in memory of Joel Lauden.

Richard Sinkoff, in memory of Stephen Mistler.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Dr. Ted Chenkin.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in memory of Jason Gaber.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Mike Rankin, in memory of Allen Weiss.

Children's Education Fund

Alison Austin, in honor of the birth of Jesse Lev Felder Noily.

Larry Wexler, in memory of Lee Schwartz.

Leslie Kane and Manny Fishman.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of the birth of Amalia Blume Cymrot-Wu.

Education Fund

Richard Sinkoff, in memory of Alice B. Sinkoff.

Rose Katz, in honor of the naming of Amalia Blume Cymrot-Wu.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Jason Gaber.

Arnie Jackson, in memory of Phyllis Litman.

Beatrice Bettinger, in memory of Ruth Jolson.

Ellen Lewin and Liz Goodman, in memory of Barbara Rosenblum.

Jonathan Funk, in memory of Allen Weiss.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Allen Weiss.

Jonathan Funk, in memory of Mike Kozlowski.

Lisa Hamburger, in honor of Dahlia Gross.

Marc Wernick, in memory of Helen Hample.

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in honor of Greer Hauptman's continued social action work in the G/L/B/T community.

Merry Luskin, in memory of Linda Rosenfeld.

Michael Bettinger, in memory of Ruth Jolson.

Paul Margolis, in memory of Robert Baldock.

General Fund

Jerry Rosenstein.

Sharyn Saslafsky, in honor of the birth of Jesse Lev Felder Noily.

Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in honor of Melanie Kushnir having become a U.S. citizen.

Rabbi Javier E. Cattapan and Kris D. Gray.

Randy Weiss, in loving memory of Allen Weiss.

Randy Weiss, in appreciation of Rabbi Dorothy Richman, Allan Berenstein, Kyle West, Jon Funk, Jose Luis Moscovich, Melanie Kushnir, Dahlia Gross and Lea Salem.

Rick Crane.

Sharyn Saslafsky, in appreciation of Roy Unger.

Susan Stone and Ellen Schwerin, in honor of the birth of Amalia Blume Cymrot-Wu.

Susan Weiss, for the support of the CSZ Chamber Music Series.

Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Mike Rankin, in honor of Robin Leonard's acceptance to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute

of Religion.

Library Fund

Marc Wernick, in memory of Jack Schipper.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Becky Dixon, in memory of Rachel Mailman.

James Carlson, in memory of Ron Wilmot.

Hal Podgur, in memory of Mollie Podgur.

Prayerbook Fund

Marc Lipschutz, in honor of the Siddur Committee.

Larry Wexler, in honor of the birth of Jesse Lev Felder Noily.

Rose Katz, in honor of the Siddur Committee.

Ritual Fund

Rose Katz, in honor of the naming of Jesse Lev Felder Noily.

Social Action Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Isabel Fishman.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Bob Coffman.

Rally For Gun Control

At the UAHC/WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) Biennial Conventions this past December, Rabbi Eric Yoffie launched the UAHC Campaign to end gun violence. Now UAHC and WRJ are working to ensure that the Reform movement is strongly represented at the Million Mom March in Washington on May 14; the March campaign is mobilizing activities to end violence against children. For more information about volunteering, contact National Volunteer Coordinator Vicki King (301/585-0652). For more information on matters of gun regulation, contact Ben Miller at the Religious Action Center, the Social Action office of the UAHC, (202/387-2800 or bmiller@uahc.org).

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Va'ad Minutes

continued from page 7

Ami Zusman gave the Membership Report. The Va'ad unanimously approved three new households. Three households resigned. Ami reminded us about CSZ 101 in March and that greeting is important.

David Gellman presented the Kashrut Policy. It was moved to approve the policy. The motion carried with two abstentions and one opposed.

David Gellman presented the Children at CSZ Policy. The Va'ad approved it unanimously.

Lyssa Friedman gave the Personnel Committee Report. The committee is working on a policy about how to most effectively supervise grant acquisitions which have a personnel dimension and to create a more effective partnership between the President, the Children's Education Board, the Va'ad, and the Personnel Committee. Currently, we have accepted several small one-year grants to enhance our Kadimah program.

David Gellman gave the President's Report. The Building and Grounds Committee is attempting to deal with parking concerns and the security gate for the 16th street entrance. Robin Leonard will be organizing a Va'ad Shabbaton to include Shabbat morning services, lunch and Torah study.

Lea Salem gave the Administrator's Report beginning with handing out greeting guidelines. She emphasized the importance of being welcoming and reaching out to new members. Lea shared information about a homeless drop-in center being considered in our neighborhood and a request for our support. The staff is exploring applying for a Kohn Summer Intern. Rabbi Richard Address of the UAHC Department of Family Concerns will be doing a Bikkur Cholim training on April 4th.

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 575-4961
Education office, 575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

Officers:

President, David Gellman
(550-9449),
- sfgellman@aol.com or
- president@shaarzahav.org)
Vice President, Lisa Katz

Vice President, Lyssa Friedman
Treasurer, Arthur Siepian
Recorder, Sue Bojdak

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Ellie Cohen
James Carlson
Howard Herman
Rose Katz
Robin Leonard
Jacob Rothman
Jeffrey Sherman
Robert Tat
Ami Zusman

CSZ Staff:

Administrator, Lea Salem
- lsalem@shaarzahav.org
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- cszdahlia@yahoo.com
Director of Children's Education,
David Shneer
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzner
Administrative Assistant,
Melanie Kushnir
- mkushnir@shaarzahav.org
Rabbinical Consultant, Dorothy Richman
Bnei Mitzvah Mentorship Coordinator,
Elise Fineberg

Committee Chairs:

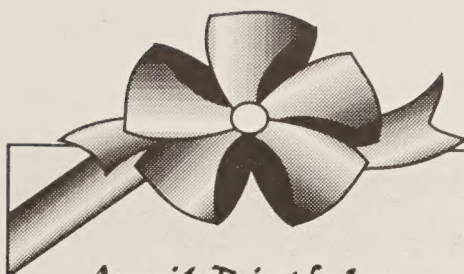
Adult Education, Ron Edelman
and Prudence Carter
Archives, open
Baby Chavurah, open
Bequests and Donations,
Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, Allan Berenstein,
Avraham Giannini, Eileen Levy, Rachel
MacLachlan, Deborah Udin, Kyle West
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Arthur Cohen
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Liz Schaffer
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues Liaison, open
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk
and Larry Wexler

Endowment Fund, David Stein
Environmental Action, open
Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Bob Gutterman
Fundraising, Jacob Rothman
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Havurah, Ron Lezell
La'atid, Open
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Joan Goldman
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Joe Hample
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign,
Ellie Cohen
Newsletter, Brian Jersky
- brian.jersky@sonoma.edu
Past Presidents Council, David Stein
Personnel, Lyssa Friedman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Diana Buchbinder
and Alex Ingersoll
Ritual, Nicole Bloom
- bloomn@netscape.net
Social Action, Laura Lowe and Allan
Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, Deena
Lahn
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaisons, Daniel Chesir
and Robin Leonard
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Women's Havurah, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.



April Birthdays

- 3 Nathan Birnbaum
Eric Geffner
- 5 Heather Fox
- 7 Eli Agre Baum
Judy Macks
Gordon Osser
Anya Prussin
Robert Schwartz
- 8 Anna Katz
- 9 Eli Barnes
- 11 Nan Wiener
- 12 Dev Felder Noily
- 13 Avidan Novogrodsky-
Godt
- 14 Lyssa Friedman
Marjorie Hilsenrad
Jacob Rothman
Nancy Sadlier
- 16 Peter Barnes
Susan Borowitz
Robert Gordon
Jeanette Nichols
- 17 Diana Buchbinder
Eva Konigsberg
- 19 Martin Spector
- 20 Aaron Nacamulli
- 23 Sara Haber
Jasmine Robinson
Eli Weinstein
- 24 Joyce Garay
Karen Schiller
- 25 Brian Ellis
- 26 Sarah Comerchero
Andre Fournier
- 27 Tory Weiser
- 30 Lynn Eden
Judith Klain
Henry Machtay

DON'T FORGET!

**PLEASE DROP TOILETRY ITEMS
INTO THE BIG RED BIN FOR OUR
HOMELESS NEIGHBORS!**

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

3/24 Oneg by **Dan Halpern** in loving memory of his mother, Esther Halpern

Condolences

Alison Scott on the death of her mother, Esther Zelda Scott.

Joe Hample on the death of his grandmother, Helen Hample.

Randy Weiss on the death of his father, Allen Weiss.

Barbara Leff on the death of her mother, Florence Leff.

Michael Bettinger on the death of his aunt, Ruth Jolson.

Ron Edelman on the death of his friend, Michael Goddard.

Jo Hirschmann on the death of her aunt, Anne Hirschmann.

Leslie Kane, Manny Fishman and Shmulik Fishman on the death of Leslie's first cousin, Amy Katz.

Ila Cherney on the death of her mother, Selma Springer.

Ed Lopatin on the death of his mother, Florence Lopatin.

Members' Yahrzeits

- 2 Ron Gertz
- 3 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Sterman
- 23 Michael Randall

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Sion Isaacs and L. E. de Rivaud Garry Bernhardt

We are happy to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Classifieds

SEEKING SUMMER SUBLET - If you are leaving town for the summer or some portion thereof and would like to rent/sublet to CSZ, please contact Lea Salem in the synagogue office at 861-6932 or via email at lsalem@shaarzahav.org

TROPICAL PARADISE-Kauai vacation rental: 2 cottages & 1 bedroom house on private drive sharing lush garden. Centrally located. Call Sandy Meyers (808/822-7537) or e-mail sand@aloha.net.

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Trouble-shooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Soft-ware support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

PET CARETAKERS: Full-time, part-time and SUMMER positions available. Must love dogs and cats. Applicant must be at least 16 years old. Send resumes or letters to Pet Camp, 525 Phelps St., San Francisco, 94124 or fax 415-282-1192. Check out our web site: www.petcamp.com.

HOUSING WANTED: Kadimah teacher and partner seek a large studio or 1 bedroom apartment in San Francisco. We have two cats, great credit and will make fabulous tenants. If you have any information, please call or email Elise Fineberg at boleyn2@earthlink.net, 474-3323.

ARE YOU PLANNING A VACATION THIS SUMMER: Do you need a housesitter or a petsitter or do you just want to help out CSZ's former program director who is now in Rabbinical school and wants to come back to San Francisco for the summer? I need housing between approximately June 10-August 20 in San Francisco. Contact Renee Bauer at Reneehb@aol.com or 215/731-1860 to see if we can make a deal or you have any leads.

PARKING NEEDED: If you have a garage/driveway to rent in the Upper Haight area (Downey/Clayton/Ashbury/Frederick) or you know someone with a garage/driveway in this area please call Kerri at 504-9130. Thanks.

April Anniversaries

- 4 Lucy Bernholz and Paula Fleisher
- 10 Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz
- 21 Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick
- 24 Jeff Nathanson and Connie Tell
- 29 Barbara Leff and Arlene Singer

New to CSZ? Haven't been in a synagogue in awhile? Exploring Judaism? Whatever the reason, you may be unfamiliar with Hebrew terms commonly used at CSZ

and many other synagogues and Jewish institutions. We thus offer the following list as a guide. (Please let us know if you'd like us to add any words.)

עליה (*aliyah*) - to go up;
1) as in being invited to recite the blessings before and after the Torah is read;
2) or when one moves to Israel

עמידה (*amidah*) -
silent standing prayer

אוף רוף (*auf ruf*) -
ceremony held for a couple prior to marriage (yiddish)

ביקור חולים (*bikkur cholim*) -
visiting the ill

בימה (*bimah*) - stage;
the raised platform from which ritual leaders conduct services

בני מצבה (*b'nai mitzvah*) -
collective noun for bar (son) and bat (daughter) mitzvah (commandment)

Naches

To **Eloise Magenheimer** on her new health education position at the San Francisco Department of Public Health doing health.

To **Gregg Drinkwater** on his new position as web producer at gay.com.

To **Robin Leonard** on being accepted to Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

To **Diana Buchbinder** and **Jeanne Redsecker** on their new house.

To **Jackie Mauro** and **Zack Miller** on their science awards with the city-wide science project competition.

To **Caryn Aviv** for being accepted to the Jewish Community Relations Council's New Leaders Project.

To **Anne Bluethenthal** on the world premiere of her production, "Keeping A Breast," which will be performed April 7 - 9 at ODC Theater.

To **Brian Jersky** on becoming acting Chair of the Mathematics Department at Sonoma State University.

דבר תורה (*devar torah*) -
words of Torah; commentary on the weekly Torah portion

דור ראשון (*dor risbon*) -
first generation; social group for CSZ men over 40

ערב (*erev*) - evening

גמילות חסדים (*gemilut chasadim*) - acts of loving kindness

הברלה (*havdalah*) -
ritual performed Saturday night after three stars appear in the sky marking the end of Shabbat and welcoming the new week

קבלת שבת (*kabbalat shabbat*) -
receiving or welcoming the Sabbath

קדיש (*kaddish*) -
prayer recited in memory of someone who has died

קדימה (*kadimah*) -
forward; CSZ religious school

קידוש (*kiddush*) -
blessing over wine

כיפה (*kippah*) -
head covering; yarmulke

לעתיד (*la'atid*) -
toward the future; CSZ group for young and young at heart

מעריב (*ma'ariv*) - evening prayer

מחזור (*machzor*) -
high holiday prayerbook

מזל טוב (*mazel tov*) - good luck; used to mean congratulations

מנחה (*minchah*) -
afternoon service

מנהג (*minhag*) - custom

משפחה (*mishpachah*) - family

מצבה (*mitzvah*) -
commandment; also used to refer to a good deed

מוציא (*motzi*) -
blessing over bread

מסף (*musaf*) - additional service

נחת (*naches*) - pride (yiddish)

אנג (*oneg*) - joy; the social hour following Shabbat services

עשה שלום (*oseh shalom*) -
maker of peace; song sung to end services and meetings

פרשה (*parashah*) -
weekly Torah portion (plural: *parashot*)

ראש השנה (*Rosh Hashanah*) -
literally head of the year; Jewish New Year

שער זהב (*Sha'ar Zahav*) -
Golden Gate

שבת שלום (*Shabbat Shalom*) -
Sabbath peace

שחרית (*shacharit*) -
morning prayer

שכינה (*shechinah*) -
in-dwelling presence of God; God's feminine essence

שואה (*Shoah*) - the Holocaust

סידור (*siddur*) - prayerbook

תלית (*tallit/tallis*) - prayer shawl

תיקון עולם (*tikkun olam*) -
repair of the world

תודה רבה (*todah rabah*) -
thank you very much

צדקה (*tzedakah*) -
righteous act; mitzvah of giving

ועד (*va'ad*) - board

יארצית (*yahrzeit*) -
anniversary of a death (yiddish)

יום כיפור (*yom kippur*) -
Day of Atonement